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ADDRESS

TO THE GRADUATES

OF THE

Medical Department of Pennsylvania College,

BY JOHN B. BIDDLE, M. D.,

Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

WITH A LIST OF THE GRADUATES.

PHILADELPHIA:

STEAM-POWER BOOK, CARD AND JOB PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT, LEDGER BUILDINGS.

1856.

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AND NATURAL SCIENCES

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TO THE GRADUATES

OF THE

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OF

PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE,

DELIVERED

AT THE PUBLIC COMMENCEMENT, MARCH 5, 1856,

BY

JOHN B. BIDDLE, M. D.,

Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.

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lly your friend,

JOHN B. BIDDLE.

THOMAS A. FOSTER, T. T. TATE, B. J. DAY,
EY, GUSTAVUS HENDRICK, S. P. DENNIS and

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VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

It is my pleasing duty, gentlemen, to welcome you into the ranks of our ancient and noble profession, and to extend to you the congratulations and good wishes of your late instructors upon your assumption of its honors and responsibilities. Our task of care and charge is over. You have reached the great epoch in your lives which marks the close of youth and pupilage—the entrance upon manhood and the career of active life. The relations which have so long united us are now about to be finally severed. You leave us for the arena of manly struggle; and, with a few parting words of counsel and encouragement, it remains for us only to bid you an affectionate farewell.

Standing, as you do, upon the threshold of your profession, I cannot permit you to take a further step, without earnestly entreating you well to weigh its duties, requirements, and objects. If you are entering it with a view to pecuniary advantage alone, you will probably encounter disappointment, you will certainly receive no adequate recompense for the sacrifice of personal ease which you are about to entail upon yourselves. Unless you are animated by a true enthusiasm for your art, and are sustained by a genuine philanthropy in practising it, you have badly chosen your pursuit in life.

Our profession is not a mercenary one. It took its origin in the noblest feelings of the human heart. It was planted by pity and nurtured by benevolence. Its earliest practitioners were the ministers of religion; and the individuals who have

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illustrated it have been singularly free from sordid and worldly aspirations.

"Of all men," it has been well said, "the physician must be free from that vice which is the besetting sin of mankind, selfishness. He must be thoroughly content to live, not for himself, but for others; not to look to his own interests—not to be guided in his actions by motives of policy, but to let the rule of his life be to do as much good to others as possible." His desires must not be set on things below, but he must find his chief reward and support in the cultivation and practice of his profession—in the pursuit of a science which develops the highest objects of the Creator, and in the exercise of an avocation in which philanthropy constitutes the daily business of life.

You cannot, also, gentlemen, dwell here too solemnly upon the responsibility which you are about to assume, in entering upon the practice of medicine. You are taking into your hands the issues of life and death. You are asking to be entrusted with the care of lives, to which the sympathies of thousands may be directed, or upon which anxious hopes may lean for support and stay. Man, in the pride of his strength—woman, in the flower of her beauty—the admired, the beloved—the benefactor of the human race, or the dear object upon which the fond affections of a family circle centre—stricken down with the paralysing hand of sickness, will look to you for succor and for health. And when your remedies have proved powerless to resist the fatal advances of disease—when desolation takes possession of the dwellings of your patients—when the hushed voices, the noiseless movements, the anguish-stricken countenances of those around you, proclaim the anticipation of impending affliction, unless your hearts sustain you with the conviction of having left unemployed no available resources of your art, you

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may well curse the hour in which you were led to invest yourselves with accountability so fearful.

Approach, then, the profession which you have chosen with steadfast zeal and undivided devotion. Dedicate to the performance of its duties all the energies and powers of your minds and bodies. Endeavor to appreciate the dignity of your mission as messengers of mercy and comfort, as conservators and protectors of the health and physical well-being of your fellow men, both individually and socially; and bear in mind, too, that your office is not limited to the mere exhibition of medicines—that it forms a part of your duty to minister by moral means to the mind diseased, and that, "when all human means fail,—as sooner or later they must fail—to ward off the dreaded termination of sickness, when nothing remains to be done but to await the inevitable hour, it is still within your province alike to soothe the parting moments of the dying, and to make the solemn event a useful lesson to the survivors."

In commencing your careers, gentlemen, next in importance to a proper appreciation of the responsibilities which it involves, is the cultivation of a spirit of loyalty to your profession. You must resolve not only to be true to its objects, but to co-operate cordially with your fellow-laborers in every effort to promote its advancement. Isolation is incompatible with its character. And you will find, too, that the favorable opinion of your brethren is the surest basis of professional success, and that separation will not only mar your usefulness, but seriously interfere with solid or enduring reputation.

I trust, then, that you will feel forcibly the duty of cherishing cordial relations with the brotherhood of the profession. They will support you in difficulties and under depression; and if you set out with the determination to establish them, you can scarcely

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fail to maintain them, whatever may be your situation. The world is like a mirror. It reflects to us the face which we present it. And he who bears himself frankly, courteously, and kindly, who gives his competitors credit for right motives, wherever possible, who aims to find out rather the good that is in them, than to dwell upon their short-comings and faults, will finally convert his rivals into friends and supporters. There is nothing ever gained by bickerings and quarrels; and the most earnest attention to our own interests, may go hand in hand with the exercise of mutual good offices and friendly sympathy with those by whose sides we journey in the race of life.

In the code of ethics which has been adopted by our National Medical Association, you will find set forth the details of conduct which are proper in your various professional relations. A scrupulous adherence to its injunctions is incumbent upon you, and is essential to professional respectability.

In associate action, too, the profession finds its best support against the encroachments of irregular practice. The success of charlatanism in all its various phases, whether arrayed in the imposing garb of some miscalled system, or deluding and plundering by individual imposture, has been not a little traceable to the absence of a proper organization among ourselves. I would warmly urge you to unite yourselves, as soon as eligible, with the County and State Societies, of your places of residence, and, whenever called upon, with our National Medical body. To stand aloof from these associations, at the present time, is to fail in duty to the progress of medical science, to the public good, and to your profession. Depend upon it, that before long the effects of the organization which has recently been begun throughout our country, will be felt in the public estimate of practitioners of medicine. The endorsement of the profession will

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be recognized by the community, and those who are indifferent to the fellowship and good opinion of their compeers, will find it difficult to maintain either social or professional standing.

The organization of the medical profession throughout the United States, and the annual assemblage of its members in convention at different points of our country, afford one of the most pleasing subjects of contemplation to which, I think, our countrymen of all pursuits can now revert. Our political parties are crumbling to pieces under the baneful influence of sectional feeling; our religious associations have, in too many instances, been unable to resist its disturbing tendencies; and the members of the profession, in whose ranks you are enrolling yourselves, constitute almost the only body of American citizens who can now assemble determined not to know geographical divisions in their intercourse. The fellowship of the medical profession in the United States is not advancing only the great objects for which it was specially brought into existence; it is binding more closely together the bonds of that Union, which our fathers have given us as our dearest heritage.

You leave us, gentlemen, we believe, thoroughly grounded in the elements of your profession; but you will do well not to be over hasty in entering upon its practice. If opportunites of observing disease, in hospitals or elsewhere, are at your disposal, avail yourselves of them sedulously. You must acquire some practical familiarity with diagnosis and therapeutics before you can approach the bedside with proper self-reliance and confidence. Commence a course of methodical study and observation, which you are resolved never to abandon. Recollect that your period of application is only now begun, and that, in a progressive science like medicine, you cannot at any time cease to be students, without falling behind the standard of professional knowledge.

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I would advise you, also, from the beginning, to acquire the habit of accurate observation of every case of disease that presents itself to your care, by daily record of the same. It is only by such observation that any thing useful can be accomplished; for our memories are so much more easily impressed by positive facts than negative ones, that unless we record all the phenomena that present themselves, we are unconsciously led into loose and incorrect generalization.

You must not expect, in encountering disease, to meet with cases always characterized by the same marked features that you have heard described in lectures. You must be prepared to study and to treat irregularities and complications, that may depend upon idiosyncracies and modifying circumstances of various kinds. In the investigation and management of your cases, general principles will prove of far more value than pathological or therapeutic formulæ; and unless you early acquire the habit of independent observation of the effects of disease and application of principles of treatment, you will degenerate into mere empirics and routinists.

Among the stumbling blocks that beset the path of the young practitioner are a tendency to scepticism as to the effects of remedies on the one hand, and to an overweening confidence in their action on the other. Perhaps the greater danger lies in the *nimia diligentia*, the disposition to an over-use of drugs. Bear in mind, however, that there are very many diseases which can not be cut short by medicines, even the most powerful; that the only business of the physician is often to promote the healing operations of nature; and that to *cure* our patients means in its original and proper acceptation to *take care* of them, to assist them not only by drugs, but by regimen and diet, and even moral means. I know that you do not suppose me distrustful of the

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articles of the Materia Medica, when judiciously exhibited, for it has been my especial province during your term of study to dwell upon their value and efficacy. We may point to the action of Peruvian Bark in subduing miasmatic disease, of iron in restoring a healthy condition of the blood, of the ethereal vapors in inducing anæsthesia, of opium in relieving pain, of iodine in curing scrofula, of mercury in antagonising inflammation, as striking and undoubted instances of therapeutic efficiency.

In your administration of medicines, let me quote to you the apt counsel of a venerable and genial Mentor, Dr. James Jackson, of Boston, whose recent letters to a young Physician are well deserving of a place in the libraries of old and young.

"Your success in the use of medicines may depend somewhat on the temper in which you give them. You must be hopeful and feel an interest in them. Do not, like a cold step-father, leave them to make their own way in the world; but watch them in their course. You cannot make a fire burn well, if you put the wood on the andirons with a feeling of indifference. You must study to know the power of the drug you prescribe, the proper dose, and the tests of a sufficient dose, the mode of preparation of the medicine, and then of the patient for the medicine, and all the management requisite for a good result. Do not be in a hurry to give credit to your prescription, as soon as the patient shows any sign of amendment, nor be discouraged if relief do not follow as soon as you had anticipated. In the last case, see if there has not been some error in the management of the affair, or if some counteracting cause has not interfered. Do not despair because the medicine has failed on your first trial of it. Try it again, before you condemn what has been recommended as beneficial by one qualified to form a judgment of it. * * * And let me add further, that in blind cases, a masterly

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inactivity should be adopted. This requires more true courage than the exhibition of the most heroic remedies."

In the early years of your professional career, much time, unoccupied with practice, will probably remain upon your hands. These are golden years—years in which you must gather up for future use a store-house of information from the standard authors of the profession, and in which you must familiarize yourselves with the great principles of medicine, which have stood the test of time and experience, and upon which, for centuries, the treatment of disease has been successfully based. The accomplished physician must be a student not only of nature, but of books; for the lessons which nature teaches are but indifferently interpreted, if we attempt to read them with our own unaided reflections.

The leisure hours of the young physician's life are exposed to numerous temptations. Profitless amusement, general literature, politics, the more noble seductions of Natural Science, present attractions which too often divert him from strictly professional pursuits. To secure eminence in medicine, however, will require the absorbing devotion of your lives. Even the collateral sciences, fascinating and ennobling as is their cultivation, must not be permitted to become engrossing topics. The domain of medicine is vast and varied enough to satisfy the most eager intellectual cravings; and to attempt more than a general acquaintance with other branches of Natural Science, almost necessarily entails mediocrity in your own.

You must anticipate in the commencement of your career a period of probation—perhaps a wearying, depressing period, harrowed by privation, and darkened with gloom and anxiety—before your professional abilities will be acknowledged and appreciated by those whose patronage can remunerate. Recollect, however, that among the poor and needy, (those natural patients of the

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young physician,) a reputation for skill, attention, and kindness may be established, which will in time be felt in other and more wealthy classes. None are so outcast or degraded, as to be without friends and connections of better means. If you do your duty faithfully by the poor, you will surely be successful; and remember always the saying of Böerhave: "The poor are the best patients, for God is their paymaster."

I do not think there is any quality more essential to the physician than a sympathetic bearing to the sick. "Man, as he lies stretched on his bed of sickness, is still both a soul and a body, and you act upon him not only by the medication of drugs, but by the warmth of sympathy and hope. You cannot stand coldly by his side, watching him merely for experiment's sake, that his life and death, and throes, may figure in your statistics, without aggravating his sufferings by the fear, and sorrow, and despair that you call up. As the mind of the sick man plays an important part in determining his illness towards either death or recovery, so does the mere presence of a sympathizing physician, the envoy of one of the Arts of Heaven, inspire a confidence that, in itself, has a powerful influence in resisting the action of disease."

There is perhaps no better pledge to the world of that kindliness and rectitude of feeling which are so earnestly expected of the physician, than the early establishment of domestic ties. He must be above all others a married man, and whatever respect may be entertained for his skill, how eminent soever he may make himself as a writer or a teacher, he will not find his way freely opened to the bedside, until he is known also as the good paterfamilias. And "a man who has a happy home, whose affections are satisfied, while they are summmoned forth, can not only pursue his objects and labor in his calling without distrac-

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tion, but he has an inexhaustible well-spring of zeal and energy within him. Not only does the repose of the heart give freer scope to the intellect, and wing it to loftier flights, but the tender and gentle charities of the domestic circle form at once the appropriate solace, the recreation, and the resting place after severe mental exertions, and their exceeding great reward." One of the greatest discoveries that has illustrated modern physiology and chemistry is perhaps traceable to the observations of a lady, while lending friendly countenance and counsel to the scientific investigations of her husband. It was the wife of Galvani, who in the laboratory of her husband, first drew his attention to the circumstance that the muscles of a skinned frog upon his table were thrown into spasmodic movement, when placed in communication with the conductor of an electrical machine. From this fact, thus first appreciated by female sagacity, sprang the wonderful discoveries which have immortalized the name of Volta, and of which the electric telegraph is only one of many fruits.

I do not know, gentlemen, that the rule of life has been ever better summed up than in a few simple words of an illustrious author of the present century, at the close of his days. "Be good, be virtuous, be religious," said Sir Walter Scott, to his son-in-law, upon his death-bed, "nothing else will give you any comfort when you come to lie here." This is, indeed, the substance of the whole matter. Let it be your aim and your prayer, "so to number your days, that you may apply your hearts unto wisdom."

We send you forth, then, into the world, gentlemen, in the hope and confidence that you will prove, virtuous men, and zealous, earnest, discreet, self-relying physicians, whom hereafter your Alma Mater will be proud to acknowledge, and into

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whose hands her honor may be safely committed. We trust that you will show yourselves to be among those

> "Who know themselves, and know the ways before them,
> And from among them choose considerately,
> With a clear foresight, not a blindfold courage,
> And having chosen, with a steadfast mind
> Pursue their purposes."

And now, in conclusion, let me accompany our final farewell with a single parting word of counsel. It is but a single word—*Perseverance.* This you will find to be the golden key, which unlocks the gates of fortune. More than talents, more than enthusiasm, more than address, it is the secret of success in every walk of life. With it, we see mediocrity every day bearing off the palm; and without it, the highest genius can accomplish nothing great, useful, or profitable. "This," as has been happily said, "was the mystery of the career of that wonderful man, Napoleon Bonaparte—under all difficulties and discouragements, to *press on!* It solves the problem of all heroes; it is the rule by which to judge rightly of all wonderful success and triumphal marches to fame and fortune. It should be the motto of all, high and low, fortunate and unfortunate, so called—*press on!* Never despair, never be discouraged. However stormy the heavens, however dark the way, however great the difficulties, or repeated the failures, *press on.* If fortune has played false with you to day, do you play true for this to-morrow. Let the foolishness of yesterday make you wise to-day. If your aspirations have been poured out like water in the desert, do not sit down and perish of thirst, but *press on*—a beautiful oasis is before you, and you may reach it if you will. If others have

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been false to you, do not you increase the evil by being false to yourselves. Do not say the world has lost its poetry and beauty; and, even if it be so, make your own poetry and beauty, by a brave, a true, and above all a religious life."

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GRADUATES.

At a public Commencement of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College, held at the Musical Fund Hall, on Wednesday, March 5th, 1856, the Degree of *Doctor of Medicine* was conferred on the following gentlemen, on behalf of the Faculty, by Rev. H. L. BAUGHER, D. D., President of Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	SUBJECT OF ESSAY.
Bailey, Joseph C.	*Pennsylvania*,	Acute Pleurisy.
Batdorff, Levi G.	"	Typhus Fever
Bechtel, Joseph Y.	"	Typhoid Fever.
Bready, John	*Philadelphia*,	Conduct of Labour.
Day, Benjamin J.	*Indiana*,	Bilious Vomiting.
Dennis, Stephen P.	*Maryland*,	Hysteria.
Ellison, Robert J.	*Nova Scotia, B.P.*;	Dyspepsia.
Evans, Lewis B.	*Pennsylvania*,	Signs of Pregnancy.
Foster, Thomas A.	*Maine*,	Rubeola.
Hartman, William B.	*Pennsylvania*,	Anatomy and Diseases of the Iris
Hendrick, Gustavus,	*Georgia*,	Chyle.
Hollenbush, Calvin G.	*Pennsylvania*,	Gun-Shot Wounds.
Kirkendall, Geo. W. C.	*New Jersey*,	Menstruation.
Laughlin, John R.	*Philadelphia*,	Chemical Action of Light.
Letterman, Willie H.	*Maryland*,	Climatic Influence.
Lyons, William,	*Philadelphia*,	Semeiology.
Mensch, James G.	*Pennsylvania*,	Vis Medicatrix Naturæ.
Moore, James,	*Philadelphia*,	The Circulation of the Blood
Oliveros, Esidro,	*Georgia*.	Asthma.

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NAME.	RESIDENCE.	SUBJECT OF ESSAY.
Phelps, W. C.	*Pennsylvania,*	Chronic Bronchitis.
Price, Henry B.	"	Typhoid Fever.
Raker, William,	"	Scarlatina.
Rainey, Alexander F.	*Illinois,*	Scarlatina.
Russell, Levi J.	*Georgia,*	The Chemical and Vital Properties of the Blood.
Scholl, Erastus R.	*Pennsylvania,*	Acute Dysentery.
Sennar, Robert,	*Philadelphia,*	Auscultation.
Shade, Daniel S.	*Pennsylvania,*	Cholera Infantum.
Sholl, Edward H.	*Alabama,*	The Ovary, and its Functions.
Shunk, Samuel T.	*Philadelphia,*	Opium.
Smith, Thomas W.	*Pennsylvania,*	Acute Hepatitis.
Strauss, Henry P.	"	Acute Pleuritis.
Sudler, James S.	*Delaware,*	Typhoid Fever.
Tate, Theodore T.	*Iowa,*	Dysentery
Vandersloot, F. W.	*Pennsylvania,*	Intermittent Fever.
Walker, James K. C.	*Philadelphia,*	Variola.
Willet, Samuel,	*New Jersey,*	Pneumonia
Zell, John W.	*Pennsylvania,*	Scarlatina.

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FACULTY OF MEDICINE.

DAVID GILBERT, M. D.,
Professor of Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children.

ALFRED STILLÉ, M. D.,
Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.

JOHN NEILL, M. D.,
Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

J. M. ALLEN, M. D.,
Professor of Special and Surgical Anatomy.

JOHN J. REESE, M. D.,
Professor of Medical Chemistry.

JOHN B. BIDDLE, M. D.,
Professor of Therapeutics and Materia Medica.

FRANCIS G. SMITH, M. D.,
Professor of Institutes of Medicine.

——— ———,
Demonstrator of Anatomy.

HUGH SCOTT,
Janitor.

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SESSION OF 1856--57.

The Session of 1856-7 will commence on Monday, 13th of October, and continue without intermission until the first of March. The examination of candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine will be held at the close of the Session. The Commencement for conferring Degrees will take place early in March, causing as little detention of the graduating class, after the close of the Lectures, as possible.

There will also be an examination of candidates for graduation the 1st of July; the Degree, in such cases, being conferred at the ensuing Commencement in March.

The Rooms for Practical Anatomy will be open early in September.

The Register of Matriculants will be opened at the Registrar's office, in the College building, early in September. The Janitor will always be present at the College, to give every necessary assistance and information, (as regards board, &c.,) to students, on their arrival in the city.

FEES.

Matriculation, (paid once only,) - - - -	$5 00
For each Professor's ticket, - - - - -	15 00
Graduation, - - - - - - - - -	30 00

JOHN J. REESE, M. D., REGISTRAR,
122 South Ninth street, *Philadelphia.*

March, 1856.

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SUMMER MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

The subscribers will give a COURSE OF LECTURES on the following branches, during the ensuing Summer, commencing on Monday, April 7th, and continuing until the following October, with the usual mid-summer recess.

ANATOMY, by - - -	J. M. ALLEN, M. D.
GENERAL PATHOLOGY AND PRACTICE,	ALFRED STILLÉ, M. D.
CLINICAL SURGERY, - - -	JOHN NEILL, M. D.
OBSTETRICS AND DISEASES OF WOMEN,	DAVID GILBERT, M. D.
MATERIA MEDICA, - - -	JOHN B. BIDDLE, M. D.
MEDICAL CHEMISTRY, - - -	JOHN J. REESE, M. D.
PHYSIOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGICAL ANATOMY,	F. G. SMITH, M. D.

The Lectures will be delivered in the Lecture Rooms of the Medical Department of Pennsylvania College.

The instruction in Surgery will consist of a daily clinic at the Pennsylvania Hospital.

The Lectures on Obstetrics will be illustrated by clinical cases.

This course will not be recognised as equivalent to the usual Winter Course, for graduation.

Fee, - - - - - -	$50.
Single Ticket, - - - - - -	10.

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